officials working in ONGC Dehradun from 3405 on 31.3.2002 to 3006 on 31.3.05 is on account of natural process like superannuation, VRS, resignations and deaths, including deaths in accidents.

(b) A few references had been received from Public representatives/ political persons on various issues including shifting of offices/transfer of personnel from ONGC, Dehradun. These references have been replied to intimating that ONGC has no plans to do so.

(c) Does not arise in view of the reply given at (a) and (b) above.

Revision in prices of petroleum products

684. SHRIMATI S. G. INDIRA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have set up a high power committee to formulate a fuel pricing policy and taxation regime for petroleum products;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that Government have decided not to revise the prices of petroleum products till March, 2006; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. In order to formulate a long-term pricing policy for petroleum products, the Government have constituted an inter-ministerial Committee under the Chairmanship of Dr. C. Rangarajan, Chairman, Economic Advisory Council to the Prime Minister.

The Committee is mandated to look into various aspects of pricing and taxation of petroleum products with a view to stabilizing/rationalizing their prices, keeping in view the financial position of the oil companies, the investment needed in the sector, the need to conserve petroleum products, and establishing a transparent mechanism for the autonomous adjustment of prices by the oil companies. Taking into consideration the interests of

all stakeholders concerned, the Committee will suggest a comprehensive mechanism for pricing and taxation of sensitive petroleum products, and other allied issues.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise in view of (c) above.

Appointment of independent Directors

685. SHRIMATI N.P. DURGA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the guidelines for appointment of independent Directors on the Board of a Navratna or a mini-Navratna Oil PSUs to make them globally competitive and to have a level playing field with the corporates;

(b) whether any proposal has been received from the Department of Public Enterprises for appointing independent Directors on the Board of Oil PSUs in the recent past;

(c) if so, the details of candidates recommended for appointment as independent Directors on the Board of Oil PSUs;

(d) whether it is a fact that Ministry has rejected them and decided to fill in the places with politicians; and

(e) if so, the reasons therefore?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) The guidelines for the appointment of independent directors to Navratna/Miniratna Oil Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs) are issued by Department of Public Enterprises (DPE).

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The details of the candidates recommended by DPE on the Board of Oil PSUs are given in the enclosed statement (See below).

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Do not arise, in view of (d) above.